Exploration of New Markets for Indian IT

3433. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the fresh initiatives taken to explore possibilities of new markets for Indian IT to counter the effect of U.S. slow down;

(b) how far the European Union countries have been discounted as an alternative for IT exports and for software professionals; and

(c) the specific proposals finalised/under consideration for IT exports to Australia and New Zealand where a business delegation comprising representatives of some 20 domestic infotech firms had visited recently?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The initiatives taken to explore new markets for Indian IT are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) European Union countries constitute the second largest market for India, next to US, for IT exports. In order to accelerate the process of trade with these countries, Ministry of Information Technology (MIT) has already entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with European Union itself and there is Joint Working Group on IT set up to promote the trade.

As a result of the above interactions, Germany, Italy and Switzerland had recently simplified visa rules for the Indian IT professionals visiting for execution of the software contracts.

(c) Government of India have approved four proposals from the companies from Australia (three) and New Zealand (one) for setting up their subsidiaries for 100% export of IT software from India.

Statement

Fresh initiatives to explore new markets for Indian IT

1. Ministry of Information Technology: In order to establish stronger relations and to enable conducting trade by Indian companies, MIT has established formal cooperation for bilateral trade through signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with countries like France, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, Australia, Brazil etc., in total 18 such MoUs have been signed. As part of these MoUs, specific Joint Working Groups have been set-up for identifying various areas of cooperation and implementation of the same.

2. Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council: Specific areas where ESC has organized/plans to organize Indian participation

in the IT events or mounted trade delegations are—Brazil, Venezuela and Argentina in the LAC region; The Netherlands, Italy, Germany and UK in Europe; Japan, China and Vietnam.

A study on export potential of IT Enabled Services in North America was also conducted and based on the recommendations, necessary steps are being taken to boost exports. To study the latest techniques and developments in the Call Center industry, which is another potential area, Council has also sponsored a delegation to Chicago coinciding with the 13th International Call Center Management Conference and Exposition.

Similarly, to promote Outsourcing from India, ESC organized an INDIASOFT pavilion at the IT Offshore Outsourcing Expo and Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands during 26-27 June 2001, and is preparing for INDIASOFT 2002 to be held at New Delhi during February 20-22, 2002. Three international conferences on contemporary themes will also be organized at the event.

3. National Association of Software Services and Companies: Participation at major overseas IT events e.g. Comdex, CeBIT, GITEX etc.

Exposure of Children to Internet

3434. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an undesirable exposure of children to the Internet;

(b) if so, whether any solution to this problem has been found; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Internet is an immense source of information and knowledge. However, there are certain sites on the internet, the exposure of which is undesirable for children.

(b) and (c) While providing an ocean of information and knowledge, Internet is a seamlessnetwork of networks with no single point control. It is not technically possible to completely prevent access to any site in the Internet.

Indian IT Professionals returning from US

3435. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: